

## Work, 3.7.21

### Series: God In My Everything

#### Introduction

Our message series is entitled God In My \_\_\_\_\_. Our hope has been to explore ways of life which will help us to \_\_\_\_\_ in every area and to thrive, even in a pandemic.

#### How has it been for you?

Isaiah 55:1-3 –

*<sup>1</sup>Everyone who thirsts, come to the waters;  
And you who have no money come, buy and eat.  
Come, buy wine and milk  
Without money and without cost.  
<sup>2</sup>Why do you spend money for what is not bread,  
And your wages for what does not satisfy?  
Listen carefully to Me, and eat what is good,  
And delight yourself in abundance.  
<sup>3</sup>Incline your ear and come to Me.  
Listen, that you may live...*

#### What is Work?

A definition: "...any necessary and meaningful task that God calls and gifts a person to do and can be undertaken to the glory of God and for the edification and aid of human beings, being inspired by the Spirit and foreshadowing the realities of the new creation." (p. xii adapted from "Work: A Christian Perspective on Labor," Ben Witherington III). Here we see:

- The idea of \_\_\_\_\_
- For \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_
- Not just in the \_\_\_\_\_
- Led by \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ vision

#### A Look at Genesis 1-3

1. God is the first \_\_\_\_\_.

*1:<sup>1</sup>In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. <sup>2</sup>And the earth was a formless and desolate emptiness, and darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the surface of the waters. <sup>3</sup>Then **God said**, “Let there be light”; and there was light. <sup>4</sup>God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. <sup>5</sup>God called the light “day,” and the darkness He called “night.” And there was evening and there was morning, one day...*

*2:<sup>7</sup>... the LORD God formed the man of dust from the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and the man became a living person. <sup>8</sup>The LORD God planted a garden toward the east, in Eden; and there He placed the man whom He had formed.*

## 2. The nature of God's work

- Creates out of \_\_\_\_\_, as far as we know (1:1).
- He turns \_\_\_\_\_.
- He fills all of these spaces he created (vv. 1:11-25) – with beautiful, useful, wondrous things.
- There are hints that God does this with \_\_\_\_\_.

## 3. Human beings and their work.

*1:<sup>26</sup> Then God said, “Let Us make humankind in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the livestock and over all the earth, and over every crawling thing that crawls on the earth.” <sup>27</sup>So God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. <sup>28</sup>God blessed them; and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over every living thing that moves on the earth....” <sup>31</sup>And God saw all that He had made, and behold, it was very good.*

- Human beings are creatures. But we are \_\_\_\_\_... We \_\_\_\_\_ God.
- Note that we're \_\_\_\_\_ to be fruitful and multiply, to fill the earth and subdue it, to rule over the animals and all the earth.
- When humans reproduce, they also reproduce little humans – and they make \_\_\_\_\_ institutions (families, tribes, nations), art, music, technology, and all of the things which make up \_\_\_\_\_; they \_\_\_\_\_ the world.
- Our work is \_\_\_\_\_ on God's.

2: 9 Out of the ground the LORD God caused every tree to grow that *is pleasing to the sight* and good for food; the tree of life was also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.... 15 Then the LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to *cultivate it and tend it*. 16 The LORD God commanded the man, saying, "From any tree of the garden you may freely eat; 17 but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for on the day that you eat from it you will certainly die."

- The work of people is modeled on God's work and \_\_\_\_\_ to it. God plants a garden; they cultivate and tend it.
- What is 'cultivating?' Working to \_\_\_\_\_ an environment where things \_\_\_\_\_ well.
- We learn in v. 9 that God created some trees and vegetation because they are *pleasing to the sight* – not everything was made for its \_\_\_\_\_.
- Our work, like God's, is done with \_\_\_\_\_ in view.

4. **Inferences about work** so far:

5. **A positive vision of work. So why is work such a grind? The Fall.** In Genesis 3, it all goes south.

- The first woman and man defy God and eat from the tree from which they were told not to eat, with disastrous results (3:16-19):
  - The process of childbearing becomes a LOT more painful.
  - The relationship between the man and the woman becomes difficult.
  - The relationship between human beings and God is disrupted.
  - Death – both separation from God and a return to the dust.
  - *Work is* \_\_\_\_\_. The ground is cursed and weeds seem to come up out of nowhere.
- *Everything becomes* \_\_\_\_\_, *requiring sweat and hard labor.*
- *The hint of* \_\_\_\_\_ (3:15).

*And I will make enemies  
Of you and the woman,  
And of your offspring and her Descendant;  
He shall bruise you on the head,  
And you shall bruise Him on the heel."*

## 6. Putting it all together

- Work is a \_\_\_\_\_ from God, who invites us to partner with him in 'completing' the world.
- Our work is \_\_\_\_\_ on his.
- \_\_\_\_\_ has corrupted work and made it difficult.
- But God is \_\_\_\_\_ work, along with all of creation.

## 7. Getting started

- Pray: \_\_\_\_\_ your work to God and yourself to partner with him.
- Do your tasks for the \_\_\_\_\_ .
- Seek insight from a \_\_\_\_\_ who can help you think about how your work can be devoted to God and his purposes – or already is.